



Joe Sanfelippo

Milwaukee County Supervisor - 17th District

December 2011



MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

PHONE:

(414) 278-4247

FAX:

(414) 223-1380

E-MAIL:

joe.sanfelippo@milwcnty.com

WEBSITE:

[www.county.milwaukee.gov/
Sanfelippo](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/Sanfelippo)

COMMITTEE

ASSIGNMENTS:

Personnel, Chair
Intergovernmental
Relations
Parks, Energy,
and Environment

Dear Friends and Constituents,

I know it is hard to believe, but another year is quickly winding down and Christmas is less than 30 days away. Out of all the holidays we celebrate throughout the year, Christmas is my favorite. There is something about Christmas that seems to have such a positive effect on people. To me, everyone seems to be a little happier, friendlier and kind this time of year.

Christmas is the special time each year when we go out of our way to think of others. Sending cards and gifts to loved ones, donating loose change in a red kettle, holding a door open for someone or just giving a friendly smile and a greeting to a perfect stranger are all ways that we celebrate the season each December. While Christmas is a celebration by Christians of the birth of Jesus Christ, here in America it has grown into a holiday that is celebrated by everyone because the giving spirit of Christmas closely mirrors the generosity of the American people. Whether you will be celebrating Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanzaa or another holiday, have a great time.

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas, and many continued blessings throughout the New Year.

*****IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR E-NEWS READERS*****

The election season begins on December 1. According to State Statute 11.33(a)1, "No person elected to state or local office who becomes a candidate for national, state or local office may use public funds for the cost of materials or distribution for 50 or more pieces of substantially identical material" until the election is held on April 3.

In order to comply with this Statute, the December e-news is being issued in late November. The January-March editions of the e-news will not be e-mailed out, but will still be available for you to view on Supervisor Sanfelippo's website at

<http://county.milwaukee.gov/Sanfelippo/Enews>

Check back each month to see what's happening in the 17th Supervisory District.

Deputy Sheriffs Contract Settled

After nearly four years, the County has finally come to terms on a new contract with the Deputy Sheriffs Association. As Chairman of the Personnel Committee, I was instrumental in crafting the new contract which calls for major concessions by the union that will save taxpayers millions of dollars.

Act 10, the law passed in Madison earlier this year that required public sector employees to pay a portion of the cost of their pension and health benefits, exempted law enforcement personnel. Through our negotiations, we were able to get the union to agree to have its members make contributions to their benefits similar to other County employees. This will save more than \$3 million dollars in 2012 alone.

A retroactive wage freeze for 2009, 2010 and 2011 (the years the contract was not settled) along with a freeze on wages and step increases for 2012 and a suspension of uniform allowances and hazard duty pay will save at least another \$2 million next year as well.

The Deputy Sheriffs deserve a lot of credit for being willing to step up to the plate and agree to these concessions. Due to a large budget deficit, more than 100 Deputies were in danger of losing their jobs next year. The savings achieved from the concessions negotiated in this settlement went a long way toward restoring many of these positions and reducing the threat to public safety that would have resulted from such a large layoff.



State Creates Elected Comptroller Position for Milwaukee County

Next April, for the first time ever, County residents will have the opportunity to vote for a County Comptroller. The comptroller will be chosen every four years in the general election, beginning in 2012. An individual must be a licensed or certified public accountant, or must have a master's degree or doctorate degree in accounting or finance, to hold the office of comptroller.

The comptroller will be the Chief Financial Officer of the County, the administrator of the County's financial affairs, and the person who oversees all of the County's debt. The duties of the comptroller will be to provide the County Board and County Executive with a fiscal note for proposed legislation, report on the condition of the County's funds and claims that are payable, and provide a five-year financial forecast for the County.

I fully support the creation of this position which will function as a “fiscal watchdog” on behalf of County taxpayers. I was pleased to provide feedback to Representative Dale Kooyenga, one of the sponsors of this legislation. My involvement helped improve the initial version of the bill, which I firmly believe will be an asset to future County Boards and Executives for years to come.

This bill, which is now law, creates a completely independent office holder accountable to County voters. Moreover, the licensing and education requirements that prospective candidates must possess in order to run for the office will insure that the person elected will provide expert financial advice.



Update on Attempts to Reform the Milwaukee County Board

You will recall that last, September, I sponsored a resolution to reform the County Board by reducing pay and benefits for Supervisors, transforming the position into a part-time job and calling for all meetings to be held in the evening hours when it would be more convenient for citizens to attend and become actively involved in County government. Even though my resolution failed, the struggle for reforming the Board continues.

In December, we will consider a resolution sponsored by Supervisor Joseph Rice to place two referendum questions on the spring ballot. These questions will give voters the opportunity to voice their opinion on whether Supervisors should be full or part time as well as the overall size of the board.

During the debate over my resolution, several members of the Board expressed the opinion that their constituents were in favor of a full time position. Based on responses to my newsletter survey from last fall and the contacts I received after introducing my resolution back in September, I know many of my constituents favor both part time status and a smaller Board. Having referendum questions on the ballot will provide a great opportunity for all Board members to learn exactly what our constituents prefer.

I look forward to debating Supervisor Rice's resolution on the Board floor. I am hopeful that my colleagues will vote in favor of placing the referendum questions on the ballot. After all, the citizens of Milwaukee County are our bosses. It is only right that

they have an opportunity to voice their opinions.

Since I have to suspend emailing the E-Newsletters for a couple of months, I encourage you to contact my office for updates on the progress of this resolution as well as other important happenings within county government.



Supervisor Sanfelippo Contact Information

Website:

<http://county.milwaukee.gov/Sanfelippo>

Office Phone Number:

414-278-4247



*Have a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!*